

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 20, 21 without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a storage system,  
detecting leaked buffer writes between a first consistency point and a second consistency  
point in a data storage system, the method  
comprising:  
initiating writing a first consistency point (CP) at a first time, a CP being a wholly  
consistent and up-to-date version of an old data of the file system which is written to  
persistent storage, the old data received by the storage system since an earlier CP was written  
to persistent storage, and the old data stored in an old buffers in memory of the storage  
system;  
determining a first consistency point number assigned to the first CP, the first CP  
number to identify the old buffers as holding data to be written to persistent storage during  
the first CP;  
receiving a write operation to add new data to the storage system, the write operation  
identifying a file for the write operation to store the new data, the new data written to a new  
buffer in memory of the storage system;  
continuing to receive write operations for the new data during writing the first CP, the  
new data to be written to a second CP at a later second time, the new data written to a new  
data buffers in memory of the storage system;  
determining that a volume storing the file has buffer leakage detection activated;  
creating a data buffer associated with the write operation; and  
while writing the new data to the new data buffers, and in response to determining  
that the volume has buffer leakage detection activated, writing a buffer check control  
structure to a raw the new data buffer associated with the data buffer, the buffer check  
control structure including one or more uniquely identifying numbers referred to as magic  
numbers, and [[a]] an identifying consistency point number, the magic numbers to uniquely

identify the raw new data buffer as a labeled buffer check control structure and to indicate that the data buffer needs to be checked for leakage; and  
comparing a buffer consistency point number read from an old buffer with the first consistency point number, the magic numbers to identify the buffer check control structure containing the buffer consistency point number, and if the buffer consistency point number agrees with the first consistency point number, continuing to write the first consistency point, and continuing to write the new data to the new data buffers, and  
in the event that the buffer consistency point number disagrees with the first consistency point number, signaling an administrator that buffer leakage between consistency points has occurred, and halting writing of the first consistency point, and halting write operations to add new data to the storage system.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of creating the data buffer further comprises:  
creating the buffer check control structure and the raw data buffer.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the buffer check control structure comprises a pointer to the raw data buffer.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of writing the buffer check control structure to the raw data buffer further comprises:  
creating the buffer check control structure; and  
overwriting a portion of the raw data buffer with the buffer check control structure.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of writing the buffer check control structure to the raw data buffer further comprises:  
creating the buffer check control structure; and  
associating the buffer check control structure to the raw data buffer in a contiguous block of memory.

- 1 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the magic numbers uniquely  
2 identify a particular buffer check control structure.
- 1 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more magic numbers  
2 comprises a 64-bit number.
- 1 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more magic numbers  
2 comprises two 32-bit numbers.
- 1 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the consistency point number  
2 identifies a current consistency point.
- 1 10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the consistency point number  
2 comprises a 32-bit number.
- 1 11. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting leaked buffer writes between a first  
2 consistency point and a second consistency point, comprising:  
3 initiating writing a first consistency point (CP) at a first time, a CP being a wholly  
4 consistent and up-to-date version of an old data of the file system which is written to  
5 persistent storage, the old data received by the storage system since an earlier CP was written  
6 to persistent storage, and the old data stored in an old buffer in memory of the storage  
7 system;  
8 determining a first consistency point number assigned to the first CP, the first CP  
9 number to identify the old buffers as holding data to be written to persistent storage during  
10 the first CP;  
11 selecting [[a]] an old data buffer;  
12 determining if the selected data buffer includes a buffer check control structure;  
13 determining, in response to the selected data buffer including a buffer check control  
14 structure, if a consistency point number within the buffer check control structure is correct;  
15

determining if one or more uniquely identifying numbers (hereinafter magic numbers) are within the ~~old data buffer check control structure~~, the magic numbers to uniquely identify the ~~raw old data buffer as~~ having a labeled buffer check control structure and to indicate that the old data buffer needs to be checked for leakage;

reading an identifying consistency point number from the labeled buffer check control structure;

receiving a write operation to add new data to the storage system, the new data to be written to a second CP at a later second time, the new data written to a new data buffer in memory of the storage system;

comparing a buffer consistency point number read from the old buffer with the first consistency point number, and if the buffer consistency point number agrees with the first consistency point number, continuing to write the first consistency point, and continuing to write the new data to the new data buffer, and

in the event that the buffer consistency point number disagrees with the first consistency point number, signaling an administrator that buffer leakage between consistency points has occurred, and halting writing of the first consistency point, and halting write operations to add new data to the storage system

~~performing, in response to determining that the consistency point number and the one or more magic numbers within the buffer check control structure are correct, a write operation of a file system buffer .~~

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the one or more magic numbers comprise a 64-bit magic number.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the one or more magic numbers further comprises two 32-bit magic numbers.

1 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of determining if the  
2 consistency point number is correct further comprises:  
3 determining if the consistency point number within the buffer check control structure  
4 equals a consistency point number identifying a current consistency point.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of performing a write  
2 operation further comprises:  
3 writing a set of raw data within the data buffer to a disk.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the raw data comprises the buffer check  
2 control structure.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of performing the write  
2 operation further comprises:  
3 removing the buffer check control structure from the raw data before writing the file  
4 system buffer to disk.

1 19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of performing the write  
2 operation comprises:  
3 writing only the raw data within the file system buffer to disk.

1 20-21. (Cancelled)

1 22. (Currently Amended) [[An]] A computer storage system apparatus,  
2 configured to detect leaked buffer writes between a first consistency point and a second  
3 consistency point, the apparatus  
4 comprising:  
5 a storage operating system executing on the storage system to write a first consistency  
6 point (CP) at a first time, a CP being a wholly consistent and up-to-date version of an old  
7 data of the file system which is written to persistent storage, the old data received by the

8 storage system since an earlier CP was written to persistent storage, and the old data stored in  
9 an old data buffer in memory of the storage system;

10 the storage operating system to determine a first consistency point number assigned to  
11 the first CP, the first CP number to identify the old buffers as holding data to be written to  
12 persistent storage during the first CP;

13 a storage system to receive a write operation, wherein the

14 a write operation received by the storage system, the write operation identifying  
15 identifies a file for the write operation to be performed on;

16 [[a]] the storage operating system to determine that a volume storing the file has  
17 buffer leakage detection activated;

18 a new data buffer created to associate with store new data from the write operation;  
19 and

20 the storage operating system to compare a buffer consistency point number read from  
21 an old buffer with the first consistency point number, and if the buffer consistency point  
22 number agrees with the first consistency point number, continuing to write the first  
23 consistency point, and continuing to write the new data to the new data buffer, and  
24 in the event that the buffer consistency point number disagrees with the first  
25 consistency point number, signaling an administrator that buffer leakage between consistency  
26 points has occurred, and halting writing of the first consistency point, and halting write  
27 operations to add new data to the storage system.

28 a buffer check control structure to write to a raw data buffer associated with the data  
29 buffer, in response to the storage operating system determining the volume has buffer  
30 leakage detection activated, the buffer check control structure including one or more  
31 uniquely identifying numbers referred to as magic numbers and a consistency point number,  
32 the magic numbers to uniquely identify the raw data buffer as a labeled buffer check control  
33 structure and to indicate that the data buffer needs to be checked for leakage.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the data buffer created to  
2 associate with the write operations comprises the buffer check control structure and the raw  
3 data buffer.

1 24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the buffer check control  
2 structure comprises a pointer to the raw data buffer.

1 25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the buffer check control  
2 structure to write to a raw data buffer associated with the data buffer further comprises the  
3 buffer check control structure to overwrite a portion of the raw data buffer.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the buffer check control  
2 structure to write to the raw data buffer further comprises the buffer check control structure  
3 to associate with the raw data buffer in a contiguous block of memory.

1 27. (Cancelled).

1 28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the one or more magic  
2 numbers comprises a 64-bit number.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the one or more magic  
2 numbers comprises two 32-bit numbers.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the consistency point number  
2 is configured to identify a current consistency point.

1 31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the consistency point number  
2 comprises a 32-bit number.

32. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a computer storage system, detecting  
leaked buffer writes between a first consistency point and a second consistency point, the  
method comprising:

initiating writing a first consistency point (CP) at a first time, a CP being a wholly  
consistent and up-to-date version of an old data of the file system which is written to  
persistent storage, the old data received by the storage system since an earlier CP was written  
to persistent storage, and the old data stored in an old buffer in memory of the storage  
system;

determining a first consistency point number assigned to the first CP, the first CP  
number to identify the old buffers as holding data to be written to persistent storage during  
the first CP;

receiving a write operation, wherein the write operation identifies a data container for  
the write operation to store a new data in, be performed on the new data to be written to a  
second CP at a later second time, the new data written to a new data buffer in memory of the  
storage system;

determining that a volume storing the data container has buffer leakage detection  
activated;

creating a data buffer associated with the write operation; and  
reading an identifying consistency point number from a labeled buffer check control  
structure read from the old buffer;

comparing a buffer consistency point number read from the old buffer with the first  
consistency point number, and if the buffer consistency point number agrees with the first  
consistency point number, continuing to write the first consistency point, and continuing to  
write the new data to the new data buffer, and

in the event that the buffer consistency point number disagrees with the first  
consistency point number, signaling an administrator that buffer leakage between consistency  
points has occurred, and halting writing of the first consistency point, and halting write  
operations to add new data to the storage system

in response to determining the volume has buffer leakage detection activated, writing a buffer check control structure to a raw data buffer associated with the data buffer, wherein the buffer check control structure has one or more values to uniquely identify the buffer check structure and a value identifying the first consistency point, the values to uniquely identify the raw data buffer as a labeled buffer check control structure and to indicate that the data buffer needs to be checked for leakage .

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the data container is a virtual disk or a file.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the first consistency point is the current consistency point.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of creating the data buffer further comprises:

creating the buffer check control structure and the raw data buffer.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of writing the buffer check control structure to the raw data buffer further comprises:

creating the buffer check control structure; and

overwriting a portion of the raw data buffer with the buffer check control structure.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the step of writing the buffer check control structure to the raw data buffer further comprises:

creating the buffer check control structure; and

associating the buffer check control structure to the raw data buffer in a contiguous block of memory.

38. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting leaked buffer writes between a first consistency point and a second consistency point, the method comprising:

initiating writing a first consistency point (CP) at a first time, a CP being a wholly consistent and up-to-date version of an old data of the file system which is written to persistent storage, the old data received by the storage system since an earlier CP was written to persistent storage, and the old data stored in an old buffer in memory of the storage system;

determining a first consistency point number assigned to the first CP, the first CP number to identify the old buffers as holding data to be written to persistent storage during the first CP;

selecting an old data buffer;

reading an identifying consistency point number from the old buffer;

receiving a write operation, the write operation identifying a file for the write operation to write new data into, the new data to be written to a second CP at a later second time, the new data written to a new data buffer in memory of the storage system;

comparing the identifying consistency point number from the old buffer with the first consistency point number, and if the identifying consistency point number agrees with the first consistency point number, continuing to write the first consistency point, and continuing to write the new data to the new data buffer, and

in the event that the buffer consistency point number disagrees with the first consistency point number, signaling an administrator that buffer leakage between consistency points has occurred, and halting writing of the first consistency point, and halting write operations to add new data to the storage system

creating a data buffer associated with the write operation; and

writing a buffer check control structure to a raw data buffer associated with the data buffer, the buffer check control structure including one or more uniquely identifying numbers referred to as magic numbers and a consistency point number, the magic numbers to uniquely identify the raw data buffer as a labeled buffer check control structure and to indicate that the data buffer needs to be checked for leakage .

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 further comprising:

creating the buffer check control structure and the raw data buffer.

- 1 40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 further comprising:  
2 writing a pointer to the raw data buffer into the buffer check control structure.
- 1 41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 further comprising:  
2 creating the buffer check control structure; and  
3 overwriting a portion of the raw data buffer with the buffer check control structure.
- 1 42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 further comprising:  
2 creating the buffer check control structure; and  
3 associating the buffer check control structure to the raw data buffer in a contiguous  
4 block of memory.
- 1 43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 further comprising:  
2 uniquely identifying a particular buffer check control structure by the magic numbers.
- 1 44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 further comprising:  
2 using a 64-bit number as the one or more magic numbers.
- 1 45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 further comprising:  
2 using two 32-bit numbers as the one or more magic numbers.
- 1 46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 further comprising:  
2 identifying a current consistency point by the consistency point number.
- 1 47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 further comprising:  
2 using a 32-bit number as the consistency point number.

1 48. (Previously Presented) A computer readable media, comprising:  
2 said computer readable media containing instructions for execution on a processor  
3 for a method of detecting leaked buffer writes between a first consistency point and a  
4 second consistency point, the method having,  
5 receiving a write operation, the write operation identifying a file for the write  
6 operation;  
7 creating a data buffer associated with the write operation; and  
8 writing a buffer check control structure to a raw data buffer associated with the  
9 data buffer, the buffer check control structure including one or more uniquely identifying  
10 numbers referred to as magic numbers and a consistency point number, the magic  
11 numbers to uniquely identify the raw data buffer as a labeled buffer check control  
12 structure and to indicate that the data buffer needs to be checked for leakage.

1 49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
2 detecting buffer leakage in response to determining that the one or more magic  
3 numbers within the buffer check control structure are correct and that the consistency  
4 point number is not correct.

Please add new claims 50, et seq., as follows:

1     50. (New) A method for operating a computer storage system,  
2     comprising:  
3         initiating writing a first consistency point (CP) at a first time, a CP being a wholly  
4     consistent and up-to-date version of an old data of the file system which is written to  
5     persistent storage, the old data received by the storage system since an earlier CP was written  
6     to persistent storage, and the old data stored in an old buffer in memory of the storage  
7     system;  
8         determining a first consistency point number assigned to the first CP, the first CP  
9     number to identify the old buffers as holding data to be written to persistent storage during  
10    the first CP;  
11        reading an identifying consistency point number from the old data buffer;  
12        receiving a write operation to add new data to the storage system, the new data to be  
13    written to a second CP at a later second time, the new data written to a new data buffers in  
14    memory of the storage system; and  
15        comparing a buffer consistency point number read from an old buffer with the first  
16    consistency point number, and if the buffer consistency point number agrees with the first  
17    consistency point number, continuing to write the first consistency point, and continuing to  
18    write the new data to the new data buffer, and  
19        in the event that the buffer consistency point number disagrees with the first  
20    consistency point number, signaling an administrator that buffer leakage between consistency  
21    points has occurred, and halting writing of the first consistency point, and halting write  
22    operations to add new data to the storage system.

1     51. (New) The method as in claim 50, further comprising:  
2         reading a buffer check control structure from the old data buffer, the buffer check  
3     control structure including one or more uniquely identifying numbers referred to as magic

4 numbers and the identifying consistency point number, the magic numbers to uniquely  
5 identify the new data buffer as a buffer check control structure.

1 52. (New) The method as in claim 50, further comprising:

2 writing a buffer check control structure into the new data buffer, the buffer check  
3 control structure including one or more uniquely identifying numbers referred to as magic  
4 numbers and a new consistency point number, the magic numbers to uniquely identify the  
5 new data buffer as a buffer check control structure and the new consistency point number to  
6 identify the buffer as to be written to persistent storage during writing the second consistency  
7 point at the second time.

1 53. (New) The method as in claim 50, further comprising:

2 in response to reading a reading one or more uniquely identifying numbers referred to  
3 as magic numbers from the old data buffer, identifying a buffer check control structure, the  
4 buffer check control structure including the identifying consistency point number from the  
5 old data buffer.

1 54. (New) The method as in claim 53, further comprising:

2 in response to reading the one or more uniquely identifying numbers referred to as  
3 magic numbers from the old data buffer, determining that a volume storing the data has  
4 buffer leakage detection activated.

1 55. (New) The method as in claim 50, further comprising:

2 continuing to receive write operations for the new data during writing the first CP.

1 56. (New) A computer storage system, comprising:

2 a storage operating system executing on the storage system to write a first consistency  
3 point (CP) at a first time, a CP being a wholly consistent and up-to-date version of an old  
4 data of the file system which is written to persistent storage, the old data received by the

5 storage system since an earlier CP was written to persistent storage, and the old data stored in  
6 an old buffer in memory of the storage system;

7 the storage operating system to determine a first consistency point number assigned to  
8 the first CP, the first CP number to identify the old buffers as holding data to be written to  
9 persistent storage during the first CP;

10 the storage operating system to read an identifying consistency point number from the  
11 old data buffer;

12 the storage system to receive a write operation to add new data to the storage system,  
13 the new data to be written to a second CP at a later second time, the new data written to a  
14 new data buffer in memory of the storage system; and

15 the storage operating system to compare a buffer consistency point number read from  
16 an old buffer with the first consistency point number, and if the buffer consistency point  
17 number agrees with the first consistency point number, continuing to write the first  
18 consistency point, and continuing to write the new data to the new data buffer, and

19 in the event that the buffer consistency point number disagrees with the first  
20 consistency point number, signaling an administrator that buffer leakage between consistency  
21 points has occurred, and halting writing of the first consistency point, and halting write  
22 operations to add new data to the storage system.

1 57. (New) The computer storage system as in claim 56, further comprising:

2 a buffer check control structure read from the old data buffer, the buffer check control  
3 structure including one or more uniquely identifying numbers referred to as magic numbers  
4 and the identifying consistency point number, the magic numbers to uniquely identify the  
5 new data buffer as a buffer check control structure.

1 58. (New) The computer storage system as in claim 56, further comprising:

2 a buffer check control structure to be written into the new data buffer, the buffer  
3 check control structure including one or more uniquely identifying numbers referred to as  
4 magic numbers and a new consistency point number, the magic numbers to uniquely identify  
5 the new data buffer as a buffer check control structure and the new consistency point number

to identify the buffer as to be written to persistent storage during writing the second consistency point at the second time.

59. (New) The computer storage system as in claim 56, further comprising:

in response to reading a reading one or more uniquely identifying numbers referred to as magic numbers from the old data buffer, identifying a buffer check control structure, the buffer check control structure including the identifying consistency point number from the old data buffer.

60. (New) The computer storage system as in claim 59, further comprising:

in response to reading the one or more uniquely identifying numbers referred to as magic numbers from the old data buffer, the computer storage system to determine that a volume storing the data has buffer leakage detection activated.

61. (New) The computer storage system as in claim 56, further comprising:

the computer storage system to continue to receive write operations for the new data during writing the first CP.

62. (New) A computer readable storage media, comprising:

said computer readable storage media containing instructions for execution on a processor for a method of operating a computer storage system, having,  
initiating writing a first consistency point (CP) at a first time, a CP being a wholly consistent and up-to-date version of an old data of the file system which is written to persistent storage, the old data received by the storage system since an earlier CP was written to persistent storage, and the old data stored in an old buffer in memory of the storage system;

determining a first consistency point number assigned to the first CP, the first CP number to identify the old buffers as holding data to be written to persistent storage during the first CP;

reading an identifying consistency point number from the old data buffer;

13 receiving a write operation to add new data to the storage system, the new data to be  
14 written to a second CP at a later second time, the new data written to a new data buffers in  
15 memory of the storage system; and

16 comparing a buffer consistency point number read from an old buffer with the first  
17 consistency point number, and if the buffer consistency point number agrees with the first  
18 consistency point number, continuing to write the first consistency point, and continuing to  
19 write the new data to the new data buffer, and

20 in the event that the buffer consistency point number disagrees with the first  
21 consistency point number, signaling an administrator that buffer leakage between consistency  
22 points has occurred, and halting writing of the first consistency point, and halting write  
23 operations to add new data to the storage system.